

BRATTLEBORO TOWN SCHOOL BOARD

53 Green Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

802-254-3730

December 11, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

The Brattleboro Town School Board and the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union have utilized the services of Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) for years. Their recordings of our meetings are watched by many in our town, and provide a vital piece of communication to our citizens.

Over the past three years, due to a law implemented state-wide, all the communities in our area have been very interested in watching the complex workings of a state-mandated study committee. BCTV worked specifically with the study committee to form an educational video to inform voters about a potential merger. Their assistance in getting information out to everyone—on both sides of the issues—was incredibly important.

Most importantly, we have found that those who watch our meetings' video recordings are very pleased that they can know what is going on in our town's elementary schools (and all area schools, in the case of the supervisory union meetings). There are many—good—reasons that the general public might not make a meeting. The recordings allow them to catch the meetings on their own schedules.

This local presence enables the residents of our town to create and watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators – something that was never the

intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Jill Stahl Tyler
Chair of the Brattleboro Town School Board
On behalf of all board members:

Kim Price, Vice Chair
Spoon Agave, Clerk
David Schoales, Member
Robin Morgan, Member

JST/bdn